

# Calcoin News

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE  
California State Numismatic Association

## C O N T E N T S

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Volume II, Number 6

NOVEMBER 1957





PILLAR DOLLAR OF CHARLES III, CHOPMARKED

## *World Trade Dollars*

By R. G. McARTHUR, Oakland

Most coin collectors are, more or less, familiar with the United States trade dollar. They are aware that these pieces, struck in quantity from 1873 to 1878 and dwindling down to proofs only in 1884 and 1885, were intended for circulation in the orient. However, few know the story behind these interesting coins.

It all began with the founding of the mint of Mexico, in the year 1536. This mint, incidentally, was the first for many years to be established on the American continent. From that time, 1536, to late in the 19th century, the Spanish dollar or piece of 8 reales, followed by its successor, the Mexican peso, was the preferred instrument of exchange in the Far East.

According to the Mexican version, their competitors in the oriental markets grew tired of counterfeiting the peso and struck special coins of their own. These special pieces or "trade dollars" will be discussed in their chronological order.

The first to appear was the Hong Kong dollar, issued by Great Britain from 1866 to 1868. Hong Kong, as you know, is a small island off the southeastern coast of China, at the mouth of the estuary leading to Can-

ton. It was ceded by China to Great Britain in 1841. The Hong Kong dollar was not immediately successful and soon was discontinued.

The next to enter the race was the Japanese trade dollar, issued from 1875 to 1878, which was closely followed by the aforementioned United States trade dollar. These two were similar in that both originally were intended for trade purposes only, but later had legal tender status in their own countries. The Japanese trade dollar was moderately successful, but was discontinued when its legal tender status was canceled. Unlike its United States counterpart, however, it later was revived to pay Japanese armies in China and Formosa.

According to Mexican historians, the United States trade dollar gave the peso its toughest competition. It circulated in Singapore, Penang, Bangkok and Saigon and was sold for its weight and value in Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Canton.

France got into the act in 1885, with its piastre de commerce. This coin, struck at the Paris Mint, circulated rather freely in Asia until early in the 20th century. Thereafter, until its demise in 1928, its export was



MEXICAN 8-REALES, PORTRAIT TYPE, CHOPMARKED



HONG KONG DOLLAR, 1866-1868

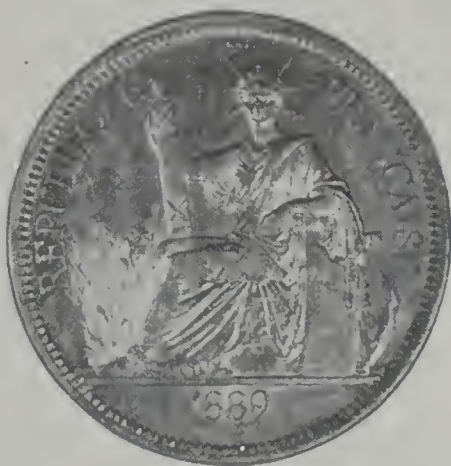


JAPANESE TRADE DOLLAR, 1875-1878





UNITED STATES TRADE DOLLAR, 1873-1885



FRENCH INDO-CHINA, PIASTRE DE COMMERCE



BRITISH TRADE DOLLAR, 1895-1935

forbidden and it was restricted to use in French Indo-China. Proofs were struck for the Antwerp Exposition of 1885 and the Paris Exposition of 1889 and 1900.

The British again entered the field in 1895 and due to a shortage of pesos and yen, their trade dollar was moderately successful. It was coined at the Bombay Mint, the Calcutta Mint and, since 1925, a few times at the Royal Mint in London. It continued to be a contender until 1935, when it lost popularity and went the way of the others. This coin is unique in that the denomination is indicated in three languages, English, Chinese and Malay.

Although it was not intended primarily for use in the orient, this article would not be complete without some mention of the Maria Theresa taler. This coin, unique in that all pieces bear the date 1780 regardless of year issued, was first struck in Vienna, during the reign of the Empress Maria Theresa. It continued to circulate in Arabia and Africa, particularly Abyssinia, as late as 1938.

Any attempt to change the date or to alter the coin in the slightest

detail resulted in its rejection by the natives. It has been said that they even counted the beads in the necklace around Maria's neck, and if just one bead were missing, the coin was condemned. So, to the average person, all look exactly alike, even though struck over a period of 150 years. An expert, however, probably could detect some slight differences in workmanship or metal.

After the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, Italy purchased the dies from Austria and attempted to issue the talers. In doing so, they are said to have debased the coinage, resulting in the natives' refusal to have any part of them (this, Italians deny).

Soon thereafter, England, France and Belgium, in turn, coined and issued the talers, bringing to five the number of governments legitimately issuing this coin. I say legitimately, for, in view of the number of proofs recently offered for sale, some person, corporation or government again is striking the same old 1780 Maria Theresa taler.

\* \* \*

Illustrations enlarged by  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$ .  
Photography by Dr. C. Glenn Curtis.

## State News Briefs

### FISHING DEALERS

The Kenneth W. Lees and their daughter, Lynette, spent three days last month at a Russian River resort with the Earl A. Parkers.

### SCHERMERHORN DIES

Robert F. Schermerhorn, prominent Dallas, Tex., collector and CSNA member No. 428, died of a heart attack Aug. 28.

All U.S. coins have been round except one—the octagonal Panama Pacific \$50 gold piece minted in 1915.

Department of Commerce officials reported there were 7.17 ounces of gold mined in Monterey County during 1937, worth \$148.

Sales taxes, vending machines, odd pricing, loss, hoarding and collecting have caused an increased demand for cent pieces, according to William H. Brett, mint director.

### SAN DIEGO 'NICKELS'

The San Diego Numismatic Society has on sale sets of wooden nickels consisting of three designs. Each set is printed in three colors. Designs are, first, a padre walking toward his mission; second, a dancing senorita; and third, a Mexican at siesta time. Designs are by Miss Sandra Decker. Two thousand of each set have been printed, 6000 in all.

Sets of three are available for 25 cents, or the three sets (different colors) at 75 cents. Single "nickels" are 10 cents. These may be ordered from Paul Hamm, 3860 Superba, San Diego 13, Calif.

### YOUNG GETS FUN AUCTION

Leo A. Young, 3244 Grand Ave., Oakland, has been awarded the auction sales for the first convention of Florida United Numismatists, to be held in the Biscayne Terrace Hotel, Miami, Fla., Jan. 9-12, 1958.

# Who's Who In California Numismatics

KARL M. BRAINARD

By R. G. McARTHUR

Those who know Karl Brainard only as a numismatist, coin dealer and manufacturer of plastic holders never would suspect that his younger days were spent in such romantic pursuits as . . . but perhaps we had better begin at the beginning.

Karl Marvin Brainard, son of Albert D. and Jeanette Brainard, was born Sept. 19, 1893, in Greenfield, Mass. Both parents are now deceased. Karl's "schooling" included kindergarten in Redlands, Calif., grade school in Los Angeles, Calif., and Greenfield, Mass., and high school and commercial law school in Los Angeles, Calif.

On May 3, 1922, Karl was married to Miss Grace MacLain. Grace, incidentally, is the original coin collector of the family and has been quite active in the CSNA. Their two children, now grown, are Karl R. Brainard, a motion picture and television studio property man and Mrs. Dorothea Barta, a housewife. Both presently reside in Los Angeles.

Karl was certainly a busy young fellow for several years after finishing school. Life guard in the summer and movie actor in the winter. In his own words, "I was a small piece of ham." He worked with Roseoe "Fatty" Arbuckle ("More Ham") and with the Perry Mason Opera Co. ("They folded fast.") During this time, Brainard also served an apprenticeship as a carpenter.

After several years in the studios, Karl worked for the Building Department of the City of Los Angeles, as a senior inspector. This gave him "the bug" and he entered the building game with a partner. ("I lost my shirt.") Next came a radio store in Santa Barbara, service station equipment sales agencies in San Jose and



San Francisco ("We love Frisco.") and then back to Los Angeles.

For a number of years, Karl was employed by the old Fox Film Co., which later became 20th Century-Fox. Here his work consisted of camera crane operating and later the supervising of the building of stage settings. He had charge of building all sets for such pictures as "Anna and the King of Siam" (first version of the King and I), "The Dionne Quints", "The Rains Came" and many more.

Following retirement from the studio in 1950, the Brainards traveled extensively in Canada and the United States.

"Then I got ambitious again and opened a store where we purveyed spirits frumenti; also sold beer and wine. This, after two years of operation, on a 7-day week basis, became too confining. So, we closed on Sundays. This we liked so much that we closed on Mondays. Now this was more like it. We had so much fun that we closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday."

Karl became interested in coins in 1946, due no doubt to the fact that Grace had been collecting for a num-



ber of years. "I bought them for her as early as 1924. She would rather have a coin than a box of candy." A pair of glasses borrowed from Jack Ogilvie, at one of Sam Kabealo's sales, also enabled Karl to see coins "in a new light".

Following retirement from the liquor business, Karl had so much spare time that he decided to make a few plastic holders for some of Grace's choice items. This led to the purchase of machinery and, after making holders for Bill Fanning and other friends, to a new and profitable interest. Under the firm name of Kay Bee Plastics, located at 3856 McLaughlin Ave., Los Angeles 66, Calif., Brainard manufactures and markets a full line of plastic coin holders.

Brainard holds life membership No. 247 in the American Numismatic Association and has taken part in all of its conventions since 1948. He was chairman of the elections committee at Milwaukee (1950), chairman of the resolutions committee at Phoenix (1951), and again served on the elec-

tions committee at New York (1952).

Karl holds membership in a number of local coin clubs, including Bay Cities Coin Club (president in 1948 and 1949), Los Angeles Coin Club (president in 1957 and formerly on board of governors), San Fernando Valley Coin Club (acting president), West Valley Coin Club, Norwalk Coin Club and Long Beach Coin Club. In addition to the foregoing, Brainard is a charter member of the Michigan State Numismatic Society and member No. 1 of the Numismatic Association of Southern California. He served the last named organization as bourse chairman for two conventions.

Brainard is member No. 327 in the California State Numismatic Association. He was co-chairman of the Santa Monica convention in October 1948, and has long been one of the Association's more active members.

"One more thing I am proud of is that I have attended 15 or 16 Cal State conventions and have enjoyed each one more than the last. I think the Vallejo was a dandy," Karl says.

## SAN JOSE CLUB MAKES TENTH FAIR EXHIBIT

For the 10th consecutive year, the San Jose Coin Club maintained an exhibits booth at the Santa Clara County Fair Sept. 9-15. Fair attendance this year was an all-time high of 246,729.

The 14 exhibitors were Gary Acquistapace, coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations; Tom Boyce, "How Your Money Is Made", plus a \$5 Confederate bill reprint on back for Santa Clara County Fair of Sept. 5-14, 1912; George M. Cuthbert, U.S. coins; Rudy Gjurovich, U.S. proofs, crown-size coins, Bryan "dollars" and foreign sets mounted in plastic; Roy Hill, numismatic literature and money illustrations; George F. Hodges, coins of Bible days and California Gold Rush numismatic material; Charles V. Kappen, ancient Chinese odd and curious moneys and "Californiana" exhibit, including exposition and anniversary medals, merchants' store cards, transportation and gambling tokens, etc.; George F. Kohl, modern numismatic literature; Mrs. George F. Kohl, German inflation notgeld paper money; Cody R. Letsinger, uncut

sheets of broken bank notes; Bob Lillo, U.S. coins; Don F. Lillo, coins of Switzerland; Richard J. Rogers, "Pennies of the World"; and William Stones, Roman bronze coins, foreign minor denominations and U.S. commemoratives and half dollars.

Nine 3x5 ft. cases were used for the exhibits. Roy Hill, president, provided award of merit ribbons.

Guest membership cards in the SJCC, good until Dec. 31, 1957, were given visitors. Numismatic literature was distributed free.

Rudy Gjurovich, chairman, William Stones, Richard J. Rogers and Charles V. Kappen set up the booth.

—Roy Hill.

—————CSNA—————

## GET-ACQUAINTED MEETING

Guests of T. Kirk Hill at the Cirque Restaurant June 27 were Dr. C. L. Emmons, Harry S. Davidson, Winn Osborne, Stewart Bingham, Dr. Curtis Paxman, William H. Spence, John Yribarne, Dr. C. Glenn Curtis and Herbert M. Bergen. Purely social in nature, the dinner meeting was a get-acquainted affair.

# A Numismatic 'Must'

## *What?*

Twenty-first semi-annual convention of the California State Numismatic Association.

## *Where?*

Lafayette Hotel, Long Beach, Calif. Make your reservations directly with the hotel. State that you are to attend the CSNA convention.

## *When?*

Nov. 7, 8, 9 and 10. Convention opens officially at 8 a.m. Thursday and closes at 2 p.m. Sunday.

## *Exhibit Space*

Reservations should be made with Roy Hill, c/o John Yribarne, 115 E. Sunset Drive, South, Redlands, Calif. Fee is 50 cents a case.

## *Bourse Space*

Reservations should be made with Maurice Jensen, 228 St. Joseph Ave., Long Beach 3, Calif. Bourse fee is \$20.

### CONVENTION PROGRAM

#### **THURSDAY, NOV. 7**

- 8:00 a.m. Convention committee meeting.
- 10:00 a.m. Official opening of 21st CSNA convention.  
Registration, Cavalier foyer.  
Placement of exhibits and bourse, Supper Room.
- 1:30 p.m. Optional trip to world-famous Disneyland.
- 6:00 p.m. Optional dinner, Knott's Berry Farm and Ghost Town.

#### **FRIDAY, NOV. 8**

- 9:00 a.m. Optional trip to Marineland.  
Registration continues, Cavalier foyer.
- 1:30 p.m. First auction session, Red Velvet Room.  
Leo Young
- 7:00 p.m. Numismatic Forum, Red Velvet Room.  
Sol Alexander, chairman
- 8:15 p.m. Second auction session, Red Velvet Room.
- Special ladies' events as scheduled, see bulletin board.  
Ida Mae Griffin, chairman

#### **SATURDAY, NOV. 9**

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast meeting, Coin Club officers, Red Velvet Room.  
Dr. Charles L. Ruby, chairman
- 9:00 a.m. Registration continues, Cavalier foyer.
- 10:30 a.m. Business meeting, all CSNA members, Red Velvet Room.
- 1:30 p.m. Third auction session.
- 7:00 p.m. Banquet, presentation of awards, entertainment,  
Cavalier Room.
- Special ladies' events as scheduled, see bulletin board.  
Ida Mae Griffin, chairman

#### **SUNDAY, NOV. 10**

- 9:00 a.m. Registration continues, Cavalier foyer.
- 12:00 a.m. Luncheon, Post Mortem, Red Velvet Room.
- 2:00 p.m. Convention officially ends.



# Secretary's Report

## NEW MEMBERS

|     |                                |                                             |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 823 | ANTELOPE VALLEY COIN CLUB..... | 1121 West Ave. J 12,<br>Lancaster, Calif.   |
| 826 | BALLARD, Robert S. ....        | P.O. Box 8084, Long Beach, Calif.           |
| 830 | COOPER, N. B. ....             | 34 Hollyroad Manor, Oakland, Calif.         |
| 828 | GARDEN GROVE COIN CLUB.....    | 11871 MacGill, Garden Grove, Calif.         |
| 831 | GORDON, Joseph.....            | 5616 California St., San Francisco, Calif.  |
| 820 | GRIFFIN, Mrs. Ida Mae.....     | 3724 Weston Pl., Long Beach 7, Calif.       |
| 825 | HOWARD, E. Dale.....           | 221 W. Rosewood St., San Bernardino, Calif. |
| 821 | KEATON, Robert A. ....         | 1932 Sierra Vista Dr., Santa Ana, Calif.    |
| 824 | LAGES, O. H. ....              | 1370 G St., San Bernardino, Calif.          |
| 833 | MORAFKA, Dan.....              | 432 23rd Ave., San Francisco 21, Calif.     |
| 829 | NOVAK, Mrs. David.....         | 3532 Parkside Dr., San Bernardino, Calif.   |
| 832 | SOUTHERN HUB COIN CLUB.....    | 3320 W. 71st St., Los Angeles 43, Calif.    |
| 822 | SQUIRES, George R. ....        | 763 Orchard Ave., Hayward, Calif.           |
| 827 | ZUMWALT, Louis E. ....         | 4272 Pixie Ave., Lakewood 11, Calif.        |

## ADDRESS CHANGES

|     |                         |                                        |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 555 | LISS, Clifford L. ....  | 310 Arballo Dr., San Francisco, Calif. |
| 690 | MORRISON, E. E. ....    | 1035½ Pine Ave., Long Beach 13, Calif. |
| 586 | STOLPER, Howard L. .... | 903 N. Mariposa St., Burbank, Calif.   |

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Membership July 31, 1957.....       | 549 |
| New Members .....                   | 14  |
| Membership Sept. 30, 1957.....      | 563 |
| Paid-up Members Sept. 30, 1957..... | 479 |

WINN OSBORNE,  
Secretary.

# Treasurer's Report

## RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, AUGUST 1957

|                                         |          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|
| Balance from July 31, 1957.....         | \$626.11 |
| Receipts: Dues .....                    | 45.00    |
|                                         | <hr/>    |
|                                         | \$671.11 |
| Disbursements: Coast Engraving Co. .... | 37.97    |
|                                         | <hr/>    |
| Cash on hand Aug. 31, 1957.....         | \$633.14 |

T. KIRK HILL,  
Treasurer.

## CONFEDERATE PRICES BOOM

The approaching centennial of the War Between the States and the current boom in Civil War literature have caused Confederate money values to soar. Warner Bros. found this out in June, when that studio tried to buy up Confederate notes for use in "Band of Angels", the new Clark Gable movie with a Civil War background.

\* \* \*

Save your Confederate money, men. The South will rise again.

## MERCED'S WOODEN 'NICKELS'

Wooden "nickels" were issued only in the years 1952 and 1953 by the Merced Numismatic Society, now the Merced Coin Club. It had been intended originally to issue wooden nickels each year, but sales did not warrant this. During the second year of issue, 1953, the nickels were struck for the CSNA convention held in Merced. After the convention, Ed Fish of the Miner's Bank at Knott's Berry Farm took all remaining wooden nickels, to place on sale at the bank.



## Maria Theresa

By MABEL D. PATTERSON, Daly City

Numismatically, the name Maria Theresa conjures up a taler with an aging, buxom, Germanie, veiled feminine head, the only coin minted for 176 years with the same date and used chiefly for the Ethiopian and other trade.

Truly, the profile of this Hapsburg queen rivals any 20th century movie star's dream of success—and glamor, too. The young head on the coins of 1740 bears witness to this and at that time she already had borne three children, with the fourth on its way and one already in its grave!

The granddaughter of Leopold I was destined to rival him in length of reign. The only woman Hapsburg to rule proved herself worthy of the honor and was one of the truly great sovereigns of all time under the most adverse circumstances.

Charles VI, her father, hoped constantly for a male heir. While a major portion of his reign was occupied with gaining acceptance of the Pragmatic Sanction, which made it possible for his daughter to succeed to the throne, he continued to believe it unnecessary to prepare her for this important post.

Her education consisted of art, music, etiquette, diplomacy and all the womanly arts of the day. Reported to be one of the most lovely and delightful princesses of the time, her beauty and charm were discussed in

all the courts of Europe and many vied and bargained for her betrothal.

None of the sterner subjects of mathematics, law, diplomacy, military tactics, commerce and finance were a part of her education until she herself recognized the need of becoming prepared for the future.

Maria Theresa married Francis of Lorraine. This could have been a really ideal marriage based on true love and devotion had not Charles VI tainted it by his political maneuvering. Francis and Maria fell in love at an early age and considered themselves betrothed until Charles started angling for a more profitable deal. During this political maneuvering and procrastination on Charles' part, he lost a war to Louis XV of France. Louis demanded, among other things, the rich province of Lorraine. Thus, Charles had to make a bargain with Francis that for his lands he would in turn receive Maria Theresa in marriage.

Maria Theresa's love was not dimmed by this harsh treatment and continued for a lifetime, but there is every reason to believe that the love of Francis for Maria received a shock from which it never completely recovered.

The wedding took place Feb. 12, 1736. We may be sure that for the bridegroom the joyous occasion was immersed in sadness and misgivings,

while the bride also felt the disgrace of her husband and continued to feel it for years. Later she strove with all her might on several occasions to retrieve his lands for him.

With the death in April of Prince Eugene, the real ruler of Austria, who had served three of the Hapsburgs faithfully and brilliantly, the leadership of the government descended to a new low. It also created a further handicap to the marriage.

At this time Charles began a war with Turkey, making Francis of Lorraine generalissimo but giving another general the power to countermand the orders of the young prince. The net result was a disastrous campaign, and two years after her marriage Maria Theresa followed a disgraced husband into exile. When they returned a year later, Austria was in the process of making a humiliating peace.

At this time the Austrian monarchy was in financial ruin, the army impotent and its ministry practically non-existent. There was famine from crop failure and the heir to the throne was married to a disgraced husband. In the midst of all this tumult, confusion and misfortune, the Emperor's health began to fail and on Oct. 10, 1740, Charles VI died.

On Oct. 20, 1740, surrounded by her ministers and in the presence of her husband, Maria Theresa placed one foot on the first step of the platform supporting the throne, then halted and, for a moment, glanced back and wept. It must have been a sad time for her. She believed firmly in her call to leadership but her greatest ambition was to be a German wife and mother. Now she was to be queen, which meant neglect of many of these duties.

She was in her 24th year and looked every inch a queen as she stood with her classic face and tall, athletic figure. One of the ministers said to another in a whisper, "Oh, if she were only a man. Endowed with all that she possesses!" Her keen ear caught the remark and she replied, "Though I am only a queen, yet have I the heart of a king!"

An eyewitness said, "Had one been given all the women of the world from whom to choose a queen, yet would the choice have fallen upon Maria Theresa."

As archduchess of Austria and

queen of Bohemia and Hungary, she accepted the ministers and officials as they were until she could reorganize the government, thus inspiring respect and confidence in her ministers. She made one official act by appointing John Palfy her representative in Hungary. Though this was not approved by her court, it proved to be one of her wisest decisions.

The greatness of Maria Theresa was established, to a great extent, by her competitors, for the difficulties of her position were directly proportional to their strength and ability. Had she known them at the beginning as we know them now, she might have been discouraged, for perhaps never in the history of Europe were there so many capable and unprincipled monarchs in power as during the reign of Maria Theresa. The cards were dealt for a strong game, to be played without regard for rules of honor.

The first of the many wars started with a tremendous surprise. Frederick II of Prussia invaded Silesia, while sending one of his best written messages to Maria Theresa threatening to do so. Shocked and horrified, she sent a spirited reply which ended with the following sentence, "Not for the imperial crown nor for the whole world will we yield an inch of our territory."

Unable to gain support, Maria Theresa had to go it alone and when her army met Frederick's, it was hopelessly defeated. Instead of following the advice to make peace, she turned to Hungary, calling a meeting of the Hungarian assembly to elect her queen and arrange for her coronation.

The event was well timed, for she had just recovered from the birth of her son, Joseph II. This was a true test of her ability, for the Hungarians were notably antagonistic to the Austrian crown. They already had decided to crown her king instead of queen, as they were too proud to be ruled by a woman.

The Hungarians were a chivalrous but fiery people. The slightest faux pas could have been disastrous. Maria was crowned in a traditional, elaborate ceremony which ended at Coronation Hill, where Count Joseph Esterhazy held one of his finest black stallions. The Queen mounted, spurred her horse to a swift gallop



and beat her escorts to the summit, where, quite unassisted, she reined her steed, drew her sword and slashed to the four cardinal points in defiance of the world. The Hungarians, captivated by the way their new queen rode and the dexterity and enthusiasm she exhibited, were moved to tears when, upon dismounting, she approached John Palfy and extended her right hand which he kissed while they both wept.

Maria Theresa had won the complete admiration of the Hungarians but she needed soldiers willing to march to fields of battle and lay down their lives. She resolved to appear again before the Hungarians on Sept. 11, 1741.

It was not an easy session, for they were unsympathetic to the cause. She finally roused the assembly to a frenzy of enthusiasm by weeping with the infant Joseph in her arms and dramatically consigning the future kin to the care and defense of the "brave Hungarians". This brought on a grand climax in which the valiant warriors leaped to their chairs, clanked their swords and screamed, "We will die for our good King Maria Theresa!"

Eight years were devoted to the Wars of Accession, in which most of the major nations in Europe were involved. Maria Theresa in reality won these wars despite the fact that her armies usually were defeated. She deserves sole credit for this accomplishment, for none of her warriors was better than second rate, her advisers were old and incompetent and her husband undiscerning. We might add that during this time she had seven babies and buried three children.

While Maria Theresa appeared to accept the treaty reluctantly in January 1748, secretly she desired peace. She knew only too well the weaknesses and deficiencies of her government and inwardly ached to institute reforms. With the assistance of Frederick William Haugwitz, she endeavored to build a real nation under what she called "benevolent monarchism". By this she meant a strong central government devoted to the welfare of its subjects and worthy of their loyal support. She knew that a well-fed and enlightened population was sure to be more efficient in war; she planned to take some of the burden of taxation from

the shoulders of the common people and place it upon the backs of the clergy and nobility; she meant to institute schools, hospitals and almshouses and give the lowly subjects something worth defending. She must have an army and the means to supply it without the delay involved in appealing to the provinces. The reforms of Maria Theresa were so far-reaching that the loose-jointed monarchy was converted into a real nation.

When we look at the Maria Theresa taler we can only feel it is a fitting tribute that it was minted for so many years. She did much to institute new industries and encourage trade with foreign countries, for she knew that with increased trade and business more money would be in existence for taxation. She understood very well that the people were irresistible and their welfare increased the power of the state. She did exactly what Louis XV neglected to do in France and by her clear statesmanship and dauntless courage obviated the destruction of the monarchy.

In 1756 a new war, the Seven Years' War, broke out when a whole new alignment in European politics took place with an alliance between France and Austria. It was instituted by a queer association — Madame Pompadour, a rather gay mistress, and Maria Theresa, a staid, religious, very much married sovereign.

In this war on June 22, 1757, numismatically a great event occurred. For once in his warrior's career, Frederick of Prussia found himself in a military predicament by being caught between two Austrian armies. He chose to engage a young general named Daun who was located at a formidable position on a well chosen hill, apparently with no intention of attacking Frederick's very much inferior force. "Very well," thought Frederick, "if he won't attack, I will." He began flinging charges at 2 p.m. June 18. It was one of the longest days of the year, so long that by the time darkness came Frederick's army was almost completely ruined.

When the news reached Vienna, joy reigned supreme, especially in the heart of Maria Theresa, who felt that she had passed a new milestone in her path to power. Te Deums were sung in all the churches, the city was

illuminated, cannons boomed on the walls, and the people marched in triumphant parades. Austria was safe! Daun was written a letter of thanks in the Queen's own hand and every one of his soldiers received an extra month's pay. But that was not enough. She knew the shouts of triumph would die away into silence, the soldiers would spend their bonuses and forget about it and she felt Daun's letter was not sufficient recognition of his glorious victory.

She decided to found a military order called the Order of Maria Theresa of which Daun was first member and first chief of the society. Only men who rendered great service in the army were to be admitted to membership; its proud emblems to be worn in parades, and, after a hero's death, be regarded as the most cherished possession of descendants. The Order was instituted with the Queen sitting on the throne and the occasion honored by paintings on broad canvas. From that day forward, its membership was coveted by every Austrian warrior.

Unfortunately, Daun in future service didn't prove himself the best commander and Maria may have been a trifle sorry that she had committed herself so strongly.

In February 1763 the Treaty of Hubertsburgh ended the Seven Years' War, and left Europe with the same alignment of territory as when it began.

A little more than 22 years had passed since Maria Theresa's accession, and 14 of them had been spent in most discouraging wars. She was sick and tired of blood and plunder and hoped her land would remain at peace for the rest of her life so she could devote herself to reforms, education, the arts and the affairs of her family, all of which she had been compelled to neglect during the wars for the preservation of her dominions.

That the Seven Years' War made an old woman of Maria Theresa is verified by a study of her pictures. In 1757 she was 40, but despite having borne 16 children, she appeared young. In 1763 she was old, unmistakably old, if we may judge from her portraits.

She ruled for almost 20 years longer, however. On Aug. 18, 1765, her beloved Francis died and soon after she made her son Joseph co-

regent. For the rest of her life she wore the black veil and attire shown on the 1780 taler.

Two years later, in 1767, the scourge of the Hapsburgs, smallpox, nearly ended her life. From that time on we find an entirely different personality expressing itself. She frequently quarreled with her son Joseph and wrote scolding letters to her daughters.

The one black mark that cannot be explained away occurred at this time in her reign. That was the partition of Poland. While it can be said in her favor that she held out against it for five years, once she had agreed, she was as greedy as the rest.

On Nov. 29, 1780, she died as dramatically as she had lived. Stretching her arms toward Heaven, she said distinctly, "To Thee I come." When her arms fell she was dead!

Yes, Maria Theresa was a true sovereign of a great European country during very difficult times. But, what of her as a woman, a wife and a mother?

Her bride's dream of her husband as the most wonderful man in the world, capable of doing anything, was soon shattered by several failures on his part. She discovered that his ways were not hers, and conceived her own to be infinitely better. Francis became little more than an official ornament and was quite happy in that post. Except for his affections wandering from time to time, they were unusually devoted to each other.

We can only believe after a study of her life, however, that her children and husband came second to her duties as queen.

There seemed no limit to her endurance. She had great physical, mental and emotional strength and used it to its fullest. Without exaggeration, she was one of the busiest monarchs the world has ever seen, and she went about her duties with a vim and alacrity scarcely surpassed in history.

Following are excerpts from letters written to Frederick of Prussia by one of his agents: "Her demeanor is sprightly and happy and her greeting always warm and pleasant . . . She loves pleasure, but never allows it to interfere in the least with her work . . . The Queen leads a very regular life. In the winter she rises at six, but in the summer at four, or never

later than five . . . Every day her desk is piled high with important state papers, but before she retires every one of them has been carefully read and if possible disposed of."

The few hours she spent with her children were not used in affection but to settle their noisy wrangles and disputes, but she was on call immediately in event of an accident or illness. One could assume that since Maria was so busy the father would have taken over with the children, but this was not true, and possibly that is the way Francis wanted it.

It is surprising Maria Theresa followed the pattern of other Hapsburgs in arranging the marriages of her children. Since her own had been blighted by political maneuvering, it would seem she would have looked more kindly on romance and more harshly on expediency. This was not true, however, for she made the very best deals she could and poor Marie Antoinette lost her head because of it.

Maria Theresa had a delightful sense of humor, but so completely encased it in a hard shell of piety that only occasionally was it shown.

On one occasion she and Francis were taking a walk in the country among the vineyards. It was warm and they had no water, so Francis scaled the wall of a vineyard and obtained some grapes. While they were eating the fruit, the keeper of the vineyard appeared and inquired who had given it to them. When Francis replied, "Nobody," he proceeded to fine them five gulden which they did not have, whereupon he decreed they should be imprisoned for 24 hours on bread and water in a smokehouse. When they appealed to him to send to the palace for the money, he sentenced them to another 24 hours for lying. When they finally were found by the officers of the court, Maria Theresa commanded, "Let the man alone; he did nothing more than his duty."

Later the keeper was loaded with gifts, his vineyard was exempted from taxes and a monument was erected on the spot where the stolen grapes were eaten. On the monument the Queen had the inscription chiselled, "Let every man do his duty".

\* \* \*

Illustrations enlarged 25 per cent.  
Photography by Dr. C. Glenn Curtis.

## NEW \$1 BILLS

New Series 1957 dollar bills were released Oct. 1, according to H. C. Holtzclaw, director of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. The new bills, printed on rotary "dry method" presses, bear the signature of Robert Anderson, Treasury secretary. The motto, "In God We Trust" appears on reverse. Some \$1 notes and all larger denominations will continue to be printed on flat bed presses. The rotary presses print sheets of 32 bills at the rate of 2400 per hour, as compared to 900 per hour on the flat bed presses.

—CSNA—

## FINNS DEVALUE FINNMARK

In an attempt to regain western markets, Finland devalued its currency by almost 40 per cent Sept. 15. The Bank of Finland announced the official rate at 320 finnmaks to the dollar, described as the true value of the mark. The rate previously had been 231 to 1. Finns hope the change will encourage trade with the United States.

—CSNA—

During the time of James I, tobacco was the medium of exchange in the colony of Virginia.

## CALCOIN NEWS

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California State Numismatic Association

EDITOR .....CHARLES V. KAPPEN  
2201 Peachtree Lane, San Jose 28, Calif.

Assistant Editor.....Charles M. Johnson  
3521 Vista St., Long Beach 3, Calif.

Assistant Editor.....John E. Ohls  
1519 39th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

### OFFICERS

President.....Harry S. Davidson  
2960 The Mall, Los Angeles 23, Calif.

President Emeritus....Dr. Calvert L. Emmons  
203-206 Emmons Bldg., Ontario, Calif.

Vice-President.....John E. Ohls  
1519 39th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

Secretary.....Winn Osborne  
440 Via Valverde, Montebello, Calif.

Treasurer.....T. Kirk Hill  
Rt. 1, Box 85-D, LaVerne, Calif.

Librarian.....Stewart J. Bingham  
533 E. Longden, Arcadia, Calif.

Curator-Historian.....Erich Werling  
1856 66th Ave., Oakland, Calif.

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# California Club News, Views and Whos

## A DIGEST OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLUB REPORTS

By CHARLES M. JOHNSON

In Southern California this fall the spotlight has been on the **LONG BEACH COIN CLUB**, host to the 21st CSNA convention. Nearly all the 145 members have participated in pre-convention planning and activities. Reports indicate that everyone is thoroughly enjoying his convention work.

**William Koonce**, who teaches school when not following his hobby of collecting and studying coins of Australia and New Zealand, drove over from San Fernando to talk to the **LONG BEACH COIN CLUB** at the August meeting about Australian coinage. **Koonce** has spent some time in Australia and New Zealand, and has the distinction of talking to several local coin clubs in those countries about their own coins. He pointed out that collectors there are more interested in beautiful coins than in filling in blanks in coin boards or completing series. "U.S. coins are cheaper there than in this country," he said.

Future meetings of the **COVINA COIN CLUB** will be held in the recreation hall at Covina Park. At the Aug. 13 meeting, **Mr. Beyer** exhibited his 1943 copper cent, together with assay test papers and large photos. **George Marderosian**, in a talk on the cent, said there is quite a controversy as to its authenticity. He read a letter from the U.S. Mint which stated that the only way a copper cent could have been minted in 1943 would have been by having a piece of copper stuck in one of the dies. The letter did not state that one definitely had been made. **Eugene Diedrich**, **Charles Colver** and **Dan Harley** exhibited. Eight new members bring club membership to 75. Attendance was 73. **Mrs. Marie Menegatti**, 1039 E. Thelborn St., West Covina, Calif., is club secretary.

At the July meeting of the **ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB**, **John Stoppelwerth**, program chairman, introduced **Maurice Jensen**, who

spoke on "Dahlonega Gold" and displayed a collection of Dahlonega half eagles. The speaker commenced his talk with a review of historical facts leading up to the discovery of gold at Dahlonega, Ga., in 1829, and the resulting gold rush into the Cherokee Indian Territory, where gold was found. He also described the forceful removal of the Cherokee Indians to the territory of Oklahoma in order that the white man could exploit the gold deposits in an area of about 10 square miles. The first Dahlonega gold was shipped to the Philadelphia Mint in 1830. Because of difficulty of transportation, the U.S. government established a mint at Dahlonega. Since minting operations started in 1838, \$1, \$2.50, \$3 and \$5 denominations were struck. As the gold field neared depletion and gold was discovered in California in 1849, many miners departed for the West. Minting operations were discontinued when the Confederates took over the mint and were never resumed.

**Charles V. Kappen**, busy editor of **Calcoin News** and professor of journalism at San Jose State College, attended the August meeting of the **ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB**. He discussed briefly his work as editor and the importance of **Calcoin News** to CSNA members. **Dr. C. L. Emmons** reported on the ANA convention held in Philadelphia and praised outgoing ANA president **Leonel Panosh** for a job well done. ANA visual education slide series No. 6, on private gold coins, was shown and narrated by **John Stoppelwerth** at the August meeting.

Past presidents were honored and attractive engraved plaques were presented to them at the September meeting of the **LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB**. **Clyde Grimm** officiated at the presentation, with **Michael Carey**, **Dr. Charles Harbeck**, **Dr. A. F. Pradeau**, **Adolph Larson**, **Samuel Koepfel**, **A. P. Gasser**, **George Bennett**, **W. R. Fanning**, **William Spence** and **Earl Whitehead** receiving plaques. **Mrs. Grace Brainard** was

voted a life membership in recognition of her long and outstanding service to the club.

Again, **LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB** has featured a special auction limited to gold, proofs, uncirculated coins and sets, with auctioneer **George Bennett** crying the auction.

**William Spence** displayed and talked about pillar dollars at the August **LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB** meeting. "These interesting, old dollars were minted in Mexico from 1732 to 1772," he said. "Widely used in the U.S. until 1857, they also circulated in the orient and other parts of the world. This was the forerunner of our American dollar."

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**David Haegele** talked at the September meeting of the **MONTEREY PARK COIN CLUB** about the life and work of **Charles E. Barber**, who designed many U.S. coins. This club awards a proof set for the best display at its meetings.

Officers of the **MONTEREY PARK COIN CLUB** are **Jack D. Reberry**, president; **Edward Paap**, vice-president; **Letha Tschudy**, recording secretary; **George Dashiell**, treasurer and **Mrs. Vera Schymos**, 8555 E. Marshall, Rosemead, Calif., corresponding secretary. The board of governors is composed of **Jake Garemore**, **David Haegele**, **Frank Harding**, **John Munnacke** and **Robert Northwood**. **Edward M. Paap** was speaker at the July meeting, which was attended by 25 members and guests. Spare club money will be invested in proof sets.

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The **NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** has started work on its annual convention scheduled for Feb. 28 to March 2 at the Los Angeles Statler Hotel. Late in September a committee meeting was held at the Carolina Pines Restaurant for board members and club representatives.

After a summer recess of three months, **WEST VALLEY COIN CLUB** resumed meetings in September. The **BAY CITIES COIN CLUB** September meeting featured famous women on coins, with many portrait coins being displayed and discussed.

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**Dan Harley** reports the August meeting was the most unusual in the history of the **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB**. At the start,

three heavily loaded cars arrived. A dashing gentleman and two helpers began unloading from the cars an odd and curious assortment of items. An old musket, shrunken Indian heads, beads, rocks and other things were carefully carried into the meeting. Thirty-three display cases were meticulously crammed full and other strange items stacked nearby. Finally, President **O. H. Lages** introduced the cause of this commotion, **Dr. C. Glenn Curtis**, who then talked about his staggering collection of odd and curious moneys of the world. Afterward the club held a "blind auction", selling 26 packages. Each package contained an unknown numismatic item ranging from one-half a Lincoln cent to \$10 in gold. Active bidding resulted and many surprises awaited purchasers when the packages were opened upon completion of the auction. Proceeds went to the club treasury.

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After an active summer, **SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY** activities slowed down to a walk in August and September. **Mr. and Mrs. Leonel Panosh** reported on men's and women's activities at the Philadelphia ANA convention; **James Andersen** displayed and discussed U.S. commemoratives; **Douglas Decker** explained price changes in Lincoln cents over the last 25 years, using a graph to illustrate price movements; and **Paul Hamm** appeared on television to publicize the **Fiesta Del Pacifico** souvenir issue of wooden nickels and his collection of wooden nickels, which also will be featured in an article to appear in a future issue of a national magazine.

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**Dr. Charles L. Ruby**, Fullerton Junior College professor and **LONG BEACH COIN CLUB** president, addressed the Sept. 9 meeting of the **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COIN CLUB** on U.S. large cents. Dr. Ruby discussed the grading and cleaning of copper coins and warned against altered coins. Attendance was 86. One new member was accepted. Exhibitors: **William Koonce**, odd and curious coins; **Vince Dieterle**, proofs and **John R. Smith**, currency. The club meets in the Burbank YMCA. **Gwendolyn P. Whitehead** is secretary.

# A DIGEST OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CLUB REPORTS

By JOHN E. OHLS

**EAST BAY COIN CLUB** continues to lead Northern California attendance. At its September meeting 93 members and guests were present. By the time you read this, EBCC's big annual event, the **Coinival**, will be history. **Walter Ritchie** was chairman. Winners of the numismatic article contest were announced and awards made. **Don Rhodes** of Vallejo, speaker, reported on the recent ANA convention in Philadelphia and gave some background history of the national organization. Vice-president **Leo Young**, who auctioned 52 lots, gave some ANA sidelights. **Jim Hunt** is keeping the library active. **R. G. McArthur**, on behalf of the ANA, presented a silver medal for 25 years membership in the ANA to **Sidney Haas**.

The August meeting of EBCC was attended by 66 members and guests. Program of the evening featured trade dollars. **Ed Lane** presented a paper on the subject. Past president **Gil Eaton** presented **R. G. McArthur** with a BBU (Brilliant Beat Up) 1793 cent as a good luck piece for his trip east, compliments of **Edward Fogler**. An auction of 51 lots was conducted by **Freeman Smith**.

At the September meeting of **PETALUMA COIN COLLECTORS**, the speaker was **Neal McKinley** of Vallejo, whose topic was "Early American Money". There was a short business meeting, an auction and refreshments.

The August meeting of **PETALUMA COIN COLLECTORS** was presided over by President **Dorothy Lumsden**. **Don Rhodes**, program chairman, spoke on "Paper Money of the World". Auction, refreshments.

At the September meeting of the **PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**, the theme was, "Other Hobbies". There were 20 exhibitors of various items, ranging from coins and post cards to trophies and miniatures. **Rudy Gjurovich**, in his full dress "King of Koin Collectors" suit; **Max Handelman**, with his mandolin and **George Burkhardt's** singing were highlights of the evening. Several items were added to the PCNS 1915 collection. Plans were discussed for the club's 500th meeting in October.

Commander **H. F. Bowker**, PCNS librarian, was speaker at the August meeting, his theme, "Ancient Chinese Coins". He displayed coin molds and the coins from them and dealt with their history in detail. Attendance was 45. There were 16 exhibits, mostly oriental.

The September meeting of the **SAN JOSE COIN CLUB** was held at the First Federal Savings and Loan Assn. building on N. First St. Thirty members and guests were present. Final plans for a coin booth and exhibits at the county fair were made. The program, ANA slides on "U.S. Paper Money", illustrated with \$5 notes, was narrated by **Charles V. Kappen**. An auction was conducted by **Bill Weber**.

The **PENINSULA COIN CLUB's** September meeting was a "vacation" affair, nine members and two visitors attending. **George Frost** exhibited U.S. silver dollars; **Roy Hill**, coins of Greenland. **Austen D. Warburton**, past president of the **SAN JOSE COIN CLUB**, addressed the Oct. 3 meeting on "Indian Moneys of the West". **A. W. Ritchie**, past president of the **EAST BAY COIN CLUB**, Oakland, will be guest speaker Nov. 7; his topic, "Oriental Moneys".

## NORTHERN SECRETARIES

It is with regret that we go to press with so few club meeting reports in this issue. We of the California State Numismatic Association want to know what is being done in your club. Yes, we want to hear from you! It also is to your advantage that your coin club be represented in **Calcoin News**. Some of you are failing to respond to written requests for your reports from your Assistant Editor. May I urgently request that you give your attention to seeing that reports of your meetings are in the hands of your Assistant Editor as soon as possible after your meetings, so that they may be pre-edited and forwarded to the Editor in good time. Let's make it 100 per cent next issue. Thank you in anticipation.

JOHN E. OHLS,  
Assistant Editor,  
**Calcoin News**.



# Northern California's 16 Clubs

Meeting places and times and dates of meetings are missing from some of the following Northern California club resumes. Information which will complete the data presented will be appreciated by **Cal-coin News**. The assistant editor for Northern California lists the following:

**Central California Coin Club**, Monterey, Calif.

**Delta Coin Club**. Meets third Monday in basement of Ward Tyler's Sport Shop, 145 E. Weber St., Stockton, Calif. Secretary, Bradford Gott. (Norman Pruitt, 3052 Mendocino Ave.)

**East Bay Coin Club**. Meets second Friday at Danish Hall, 164 11th St., Oakland, Calif. Secretary, Mrs. K. W. Sloan, 215 Hermosa Way, Oakland 18, Calif.

**Hanford Coin Club**. Meets first Tuesday at Whilton Hotel, Hanford, Calif. Secretary, Fred E. Tinkham, P.O. Box 1105, Merced, Calif.

**Liberty Numismatic Society**. Meets fourth Thursday at San Mateo Public Library, San Mateo, Calif. Secretary, Richard C. Hemenway, 734½ Linden Ave., Burlingame, Calif.

**Merced Coin Club**. Meets third Monday at Cub Scout Hut, City Park, Merced, Calif. Secretary, Fred E. Tinkham, P.O. Box 1105, Merced, Calif.

**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**. Meets last Wednesday at Sheraton-Palace Hotel, Market and New Montgomery Sts., San Francisco. Secretary, Mrs. Harry Cutler, 311 Grant Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

**Peninsula Coin Club**. Meets first Thursday at Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 725 University Ave., Palo Alto, Calif. Secretary, Roy Hill, 1140 Sutter St., San Francisco 9, Calif.

**Petaluma Coin Collectors**. Meets second Monday in Recreation Room of City Hall, Petaluma, Calif. Secretary, Mrs. Louise Heintz, 417 Keller St., Petaluma, Calif.

**Redwood Empire Coin Club**. Meets second Monday at Eisenhower's Restaurant, Exchange Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif. Secretary, Guy L. Chapman, 530 Benton St., Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Sacramento Valley Coin Club**. Lou P. Walker Jr., vice-president, c/o KBET, Channel 10, Sacramento, Calif.

**Salinas Coin Club**, Salinas, Calif. Secretary, R. W. Adcock, 467 Williams Road, Salinas, Calif.

**San Joaquin Valley Coin Club**. Meets at Sequoia Hotel, Fresno, Calif. Secretary, William Y. Lee, 69 Plaza Shopping Center, Fresno 1, Calif.

**San Jose Coin Club**. Meets first Monday at First Federal Savings and Loan Assn. Bldg., 50 N. 1st St. (Use 2nd St. entrance). Secretary, Cody R. Letsinger, 1212 E. Julian St., San Jose, Calif.

**Vallejo Numismatic Society**. Meets first Wednesday at Casa de Vallejo Hotel, Vallejo, Calif. Secretary, Neal McKinley, 1220 Marin St., Vallejo, Calif.

**Valley - of - the - Moon Coin Club**. Secretary, John Darmer, P.O. Box 118, Eldridge, Calif.

—John E. Ohls.

—CSNA—

## GELA, SICILY HOARD

One of the two greatest hoards, if not the greatest, of ancient coins, was discovered in Gela, Sicily, in July. Ten workmen discovered them in a huge vase while digging a cellar near the railroad station in Gela. More than 900 in number, they are estimated by Prof. Dinu Adamasteanu, Sicilian archeologist, to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. The coins date from the fifth century B.C.

The workmen began selling the coins to Sicilian black marketeers. Police arrested 26 of the latter and recovered most of the coins, plus 800,000 lire (\$1350) which the black market gang had received from sales. Selling ancient coins is illegal in Italy.

# The Eagle on Our American Coins

By LESLEY G. LODGE, San Francisco

The Bald Eagle has been recognized as the National Bird of the United States. Our original coinage law of 1792 specified that on the reverse of our coins should be depicted the eagle, and many of our coins since that date have had eagles on them.

The design of this eagle was from the imagination of the various designers, and of particular interest is the fact that as our country grew and became more powerful, the eagle on our coins also increased in appearance and strength.

The early issue of our silver coins, the dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime (various dates, 1794-1798) depict a very weak and scrawny looking bird — but perhaps at that a symbolic one of the strength (or lack of strength) of our country at that time.



The next series of our early Liberty Bust type silver coins (various dates, 1798-1807) have a shield covering the scrawny body of this eagle. On following issues of both the Liberty Bust type and the Seated Liberty, the eagle is very similar in appearance and with his body covered by the shield.

Last year of the 5- and 10-cent pieces to portray the eagle was 1837.

The short-lived 20-cent piece (1875-1878) shows a similar eagle

## PAYS FOR ITSELF ANNUALLY

Alaska's mineral-rich soil has yielded more than one billion dollars worth of gold, copper, silver, coal, lead, tin, platinum and mercury, the National Geographic Society says. Its gold alone continues to bring more than eight million dollars a year, a figure that exceeds the purchase price of Alaska in 1867.

but without a shield to cover his body, and for some unknown reason, with his head facing in the opposite direction to that on the other coins of the same period.

The Trade Dollar (1873-1885), the Morgan Dollar (1878-1921) and the Peace Dollar (1921-1935) depict a much huskier, stronger bird — definitely symbolic of the growing strength of our country.

The designer of the Liberty Head type half dollar (1892-1915) and the quarter dollar (1892-1916) used very little imagination, and the eagle he used is very similar to the previous ones as shown on the Seated Liberty type coins.



On the Standing Liberty 50-cent piece (1916-1947), in my opinion, is the best portrayal of the eagle on any of our standard issue coins. As this coin has been described, "The reverse shows an Eagle, perched high upon a mountain crag, his wings unfolded, fearless in spirit and conscious of his power". The eagle on this coin, without a doubt, expresses the increased strength of our country, during both World Wars I and II. This is the last issue of the 50-cent piece to portray the eagle. (It is true that on the reverse of our present Ben Franklin coins an eagle appears, but it is so small that very few persons have noticed it, the main design being the Liberty Bell.)

The Eagle, in a flying position, appears on but three of our standard issue coins — the Flying Eagle cent (1856-1858), the Standing Liberty quarter (1916-1930) and the St. Gaudens double eagle gold coin (1907-1933). The eagles on these three coins are almost identical in appearance and of a strong, husky type.

Our present Washington quarter is the only standard issue coin now de-



picting the eagle as the main design on the reverse.

Of interest is the fact that some of our coins did not follow the pattern of depicting the eagle. At no time did our ½-cent, 2-cent or 3-cent pieces do so. I wonder why? And the only 1-cent piece to do so was the short-lived Flying Eagle cent (a pattern issue in 1856 and standard issue of but two years, 1857 and 1858).

A study of our gold coins, since their earliest issue and up to the last issue in 1933, also shows the growth and increased strength of the eagle and of our country, in much the same manner as do our silver coins. However, like our minor coins, all of our gold coins did not portray the eagle.

Of our 48 different 50-cent commemoratives, but nine portray the eagle. It is interesting to study the varied imaginations of the several designers of these coins — and particularly the Bridgeport, Conn., Centennial of 1936, on which is a most modern streamlined version of our National Bird.

In the years to come, what will be the design of our coins? How will the eagle be depicted on them? Your guess is as good as mine!

(Written for 1957 PCNS Papers Contest)



## Coin Facts

### BRITISH COUNTERFEITS

Biggest cache of counterfeit money ever seized in Britain, \$560,000 worth of £5 notes, fell to Scotland Yard detectives who broke into the basement of a house in London's Lavenar Hill district Sept. 14. Some 200,000 pounds in notes were piled almost knee deep. Four persons, including two women, were arrested.

\* \* \*

Real wealth is a state of mind, says a professor. Mind your dollars and cents?

\* \* \*

The word "salary" comes from "salarium", meaning salt money, since Roman soldiers received part of their pay in salt.

\* \* \*

The value of a coin depends on its scarcity, condition, beauty and historical interest, rather than its intrinsic worth or age.

\* \* \*

Gold has been used as money for more than 6000 years.

The first minted coins appeared, scholars believe, in the Near East about 700 B.C. and about the same time in China.

\* \* \*

If between two-fifths and three-fifths of a damaged bill is presented for redemption, the owner will receive half its value. A larger piece than that brings a new bill in exchange.

\* \* \*

Mint Director William H. Brett has said the government plans to produce 1,427,000,000 cent pieces during the year which started July 1. This compares with an estimated 1,093,000,000 minted during the year ended June 30.

\* \* \*

An 1861 Confederate silver half-dollar is worth between \$2500 and \$5000, depending on its condition.

\* \* \*

A quarter million dollars worth of cents would make a stack about 6 ft. high and 12 ft. square.